

synchronization signal and the node common synchronization signal is adjusted so as to maintain a selected data fill level of said memory.

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5. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein frames defined by said frame synchronization signals occur regularly, are of fixed size, and are each divided into a plurality of fixed sized time slots.

6. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, comprising:  
transmitting, in addition to said output frame synchronization signal, at least one other output frame synchronization signal, each output frame synchronization signal being generated using said node common synchronization signal as reference for synchronization; and

adjusting each output frame synchronization signal individually to show a respective phase relationship in relation to said node common synchronization.

A<sub>2</sub>  
8. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, comprising defining said node common frame synchronization signal in such a way that a change in the selection of input frame synchronization signal to define said node common synchronization signal does not cause any phase shifts in said node common synchronization signal.

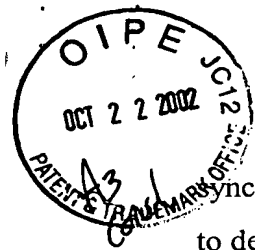
10. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said output frame synchronization signal is to be synchronized in relation to an input frame synchronization signal in such a way that:

a) said output frame synchronization signal is permitted to show an arbitrary phase difference in relation to said input frame synchronization signal;

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b) said output frame synchronization signal is permitted to show an acceptable phase jitter in relation to said input frame synchronization signal; and

c) said output frame synchronization signal is not permitted to show any persistent phase drift in relation to said input frame synchronization signal.

11. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said method is performed in a time division multiplexed circuit switched network.



12. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein each one of said frame synchronization signals is an in-band frame start signal that is transmitted on a respective link to designate the start of each frame transmitted thereon.

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17. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 14, said means (300) for providing a node common synchronization signal being arranged to derive said node common synchronization signal in such a way that a change of input frame synchronization signal to be used to derive the node common synchronization signal does not cause any phase shifts in said node common synchronization signal.

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18. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 14, said apparatus being arranged to synchronize said output frame synchronization signal in relation an input frame synchronization signal in such a way that:

- a) said output frame synchronization signal is permitted to show an arbitrary phase difference in relation to said input frame synchronization signal;
- b) said output frame synchronization signal is permitted to show a limited phase jitter in relation to said input frame synchronization signal; and
- c) said output frame synchronization signal is not permitted to show any persistent phase drift in relation to said input frame synchronization signal.

19. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein said apparatus is operating in a time division multiplexed circuit switched network.

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